

From: George Hartogensis
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:47am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Justice Department:

I am vigorously opposed to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft. As an IT professional, I find that it does not even begin to redress Microsoft's past behavior, nor does it inhibit them from continuing to use their monopoly position to keep out competition. One of the areas where it is weakest is that of the issue of the Applications Barrier to Entry.

The settlement requires that Microsoft open up its APIs to its middleware, then it very narrowly defines middleware. First, the APIs to the OS itself should be opened up, and secondly, this provision should be expanded to cover MS Office and Microsoft's .NET technology, which it does not.

Another Applications Barrier to Entry issue that the settlement ignores is the changing file format issue. Undocumented file formats were part of the "Findings of Fact" against Microsoft.

Government's job is to provide an infrastructure within which businesses can compete. If one player becomes huge, then the playing field is no longer even. It is government's duty to level the field. In this way, consumers are given the widest choice at the lowest prices, and the industry itself is able to flourish.

Please do not snatch defeat from the jaws of victory,

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